

Headteacher's Letter

As always, our Governing Body continues to work tirelessly to support the strategic development of the school. I am delighted to share that, over the Easter break, new solar panels will be installed at our Wrotham site as part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability and future-proofing the school. Our Stansted site is already benefiting from solar energy, and this expansion is an exciting step forward. Alongside this, there are a number of ongoing projects that will further enhance provision and opportunities for our pupils.

We are currently seeking to appoint an additional Parent Governor. This is a valuable opportunity to contribute to the school's continued growth and direction. If this is something that may be of interest to you, please do contact the school for further information. I would also like to warmly welcome Mrs Topp, parent of a Year 8 pupil, who has recently joined the Governing Board.

We extend our sincere thanks to Mrs Bignall for her dedication and contribution to the school over the years and wish her a happy and well-deserved retirement.

I am also pleased to share that a number of our staff have been nominated for teaching awards. This recognition is richly deserved, and I know you will join me in acknowledging the dedication, professionalism, and care that our staff demonstrate each and every day. We look forward to hearing the final outcomes.

Over the Easter break, many pupils in Years 10, 11 and Key Stage 5, alongside staff, will be attending revision sessions. We commend those who are able to attend and wish them every success as they prepare for the summer exam series. During this exam period, we are also pleased to be offering a range of engaging and enriching activities for our younger pupils.

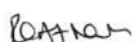
It has been an exceptionally busy and productive term, filled with a wide range of opportunities, achievements, and memorable experiences. Highlights have included educational visits such as the Imperial War Museum and the Cutty Sark, enrichment opportunities including careers events, workshops, and sports tournaments, and whole-school celebrations such as World Book Day, Red Nose Day raising over £1000, and Children's Mental Health Week. Pupils have also benefited from a wide range of events, and curriculum-enhancing experiences, alongside key milestones such as mock examinations and Careers Week. We are grateful to Cllr Beverley Fordham (cabinet member for Education & Skills) for visiting to unveil our Beacon Status plaque from the NAS.

Residential and off-site opportunities continue to be a particular strength, with the recent ski trip to Italy and a range of visits across all key stages providing invaluable experiences that support independence, confidence, and personal development.

I would also like to highlight how much I personally enjoyed the Mother's Day Afternoon Tea, which was a wonderful opportunity to bring families together, as well as the Easter service at our Stansted site, which was a lovely way to reflect and celebrate as a community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Best wishes,



Miss Renukah Atwell

Executive Headteacher

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday 21st April - Merit Award Trips

Wednesday 22nd April - Year 7 - 9 Maths Workshop

Thursday 23rd April - Year 10 & 11 Science Trip to Wildwood

Friday 24th April - Year 9 Vaccinations

Tuesday 28th April - Year 6 & 7 Meet the Teacher Event

Tuesday 28th April - Outreach for Families: Using Visual Supports at Home

Friday 1st May - Year 5 & 6 Reculver Classroom Trip

Thursday 7th May - German S&L GCSE

Thursday 7th May - Year 8 & 9 Parents Evening

****After school revision sessions for Year 10, 11 & KS5**

will run every Monday - Wednesday from 20th April

EASTER NEWSLETTER



Message from the Chair of Governors

I am delighted to welcome Ruth Topp to the governing body as a Parent Governor and governors look forward to working with her. Whilst welcoming Ruth to the Board it is with sadness that I accepted Kristie Horley's resignation due to health concerns. We will miss Kristie's presence; she was diligent in carrying out her tasks as Attendance link governor and assisting in monitoring various curriculum matters. I wish her well for the future and hope to hear of her recovering health.



This does mean that we continue to search for a further Parent Governor – anyone interested in joining us? It certainly is an eventful time at Grange Park with regard to how the Government White Paper on SEND will affect us and also what plans County may have. It would seem that schools will have to form academies which we have looked at forming with like minded schools relatively recently and doesn't hold any terrors for us.

My fingers are firmly crossed that the installation of the long-awaited solar panels will take place as promised over the Easter holidays and I look forward to seeing a reduction in our energy bills shortly afterwards.

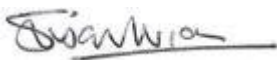
As we draw to the end of the school financial year, governors have been looking at ways of future-proofing the two sites with things like updating our IT offer whilst we can and rejigging some of the classrooms at Wrotham. We have replaced the minibuses and all travelling in them appreciate the air conditioning that now comes as standard.

We have had many visitors to the school and all who come continue to be impressed by our pupils and their willingness to show them around the school, to explain how Grange Park works. Our visitors are always fascinated by the calm atmosphere shown by both students and staff as they move around the school.

As governors we continue to be immensely proud of both our pupils and our staff – whether teaching or non-teaching and we know that as we move into the "exam season" both pupils and staff will be going that extra mile in revision (and parents too for collecting and delivering their offspring after school and at the weekends).

In terms of SEND provision we live in exciting times and I know we will make the best of whatever comes our way in the meantime, I wish all a very Happy Easter.

Very best wishes,



Mrs Sue Murray
Chair of Governors

Stansted

Art Day

During Term 3, our Stansted site was transformed into a hive of creativity as pupils took part in our much-anticipated Art Day - an event proudly requested by our School Council.

After presenting their idea so thoughtfully, and in keeping with our commitment to pupil voice, we were delighted to make their vision a reality. Pupils then took part in a democratic vote to decide the theme, with "Nature and Animals" winning by a clear margin - much to the delight of our budding wildlife artists!

Nature, Animals... and a Little Bit of Glitter!

From majestic safari scenes to beautifully detailed still-life nature drawings, classrooms were alive with colour, imagination and (unsurprisingly) a fair amount of glitter. It's safe to say Stansted briefly became home to rainforests, oceans, farms and safari parks - all without anyone needing wellies.

Throughout the day, pupils expressed themselves creatively (sometimes very creatively!) and also worked collaboratively with enthusiasm and teamwork. In addition, pupils also saw first-hand how their voices can influence real school decisions.

The finished mural now takes pride of place on our library wall, where it is brightening the space for everyone who visits. The vibrant display is already adding a little extra sparkle to reading time - because who wouldn't feel inspired to pick up a book beneath a parade of colourful animals and shimmering nature scenes?

We are incredibly proud of our School Council for championing the idea, and of all our pupils for embracing the day with such energy and imagination.



Kent Life Trip

Oak Class had a fantastic time on their recent trip to Kent Life! The children stepped back in time and got stuck into a range of Victorian-style workshops, where they experienced what life was like many years ago.

During the day, they "met" Florence Nightingale and learned about her important work, took part in rag rug making, and had interesting discussions about the different jobs people would have done during Victorian times. They also explored a real Victorian house, which had been transported brick by brick and carefully rebuilt at Kent Life, giving the children a brilliant insight into how people lived in the past.

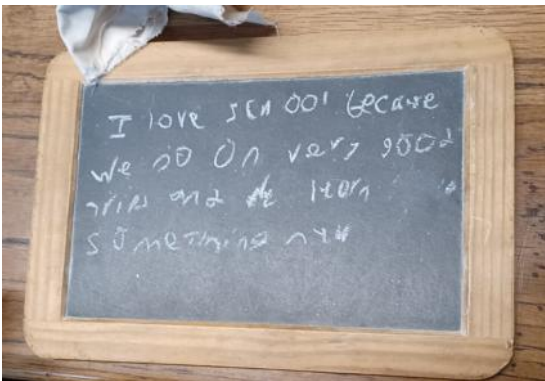


The children also experienced what a Victorian classroom would have been like, which sparked some great conversations. They reflected on how different school life was back then and shared how grateful they are for our modern classrooms and the support we provide for all children's needs.

One of the highlights was a special surprise at the end of the visit. The staff at Kent Life were so impressed with the children's behaviour that they came over to tell the teachers – and as a reward, Oak Class were invited to hand-feed the sheep! It was a real treat and definitely a moment the children will remember.

We are so proud of how well Oak Class represented the school – they were a credit to us all!

P.S. We promise that they weren't made to write that on the chalk boards!



Farm Visit

At the end of Term 3, Oak Class enjoyed a fantastic educational visit to Princess Christian's Farm in Hildenborough, where learning truly came to life!

During a guided tour of the farm, pupils had the opportunity to meet and learn about a wide range of animals. From familiar farm favourites to some more unusual and exotic species, the children were fascinated by the diversity of animals they encountered. The farm staff shared their expert knowledge, explaining how the animals are cared for and answering the many thoughtful questions our pupils had prepared.



One particularly memorable moment of the day was when every single pupil bravely held a snake! There were a few nervous smiles at first, but lots of excitement too. It was wonderful to see the children stepping out of their comfort zones and supporting one another - and we were very proud of their courage.

The visit also linked beautifully to our science learning. Oak Class explored the concept of variation and inheritance by observing real-life examples on the farm. A highlight was meeting a litter of baby piglets alongside their mum. Pupils carefully compared the



piglets, noticing similarities and differences in their markings, size and features, and discussing how traits are passed on from parents to offspring. Seeing these scientific concepts in action helped to deepen their understanding in a meaningful and memorable way.



Throughout the day, Oak Class represented the school brilliantly. They were engaged, curious and respectful, making the most of every opportunity to learn.

A huge thank you to the staff at Princess Christian's Farm for such an informative and enjoyable visit - it was a day full of discovery, bravery and plenty of smiles!



Stansted Sport

Pickleball



On Monday 26th January our year 5, 6, and 7 pupils took part in Pickleball sessions throughout the day. They completed a number of different activities taught by a Kent Pickleball Coach which introduced them to a sport they had not tried before.

The pupils showed fantastic effort and engagement throughout, working well to support and encourage others to try their best and got the chance to be the first to use our new Pickleball equipment.

Inclusive Cricket

We are delighted to share that Oak Class attended an Inclusive Cricket Tournament, where they represented the school with enthusiasm, determination and excellent sportsmanship.

The event focused on developing the key skills that make up the game of cricket. Throughout the day, pupils took part in a carousel of activities, practising separate elements of the sport such as batting technique, accurate bowling, controlled fielding and effective teamwork. By breaking the game down into these individual skills, every pupil was able to build confidence and experience success at their own pace.

It was wonderful to see such high levels of engagement. Pupils supported one another, celebrated small achievements and showed great resilience when learning new techniques. The inclusive nature of the event ensured that everyone could take part fully and feel valued within their team.

To round off the day, pupils were given the opportunity to take part in a quick cricket match - and they eagerly chose to do so! This was a fantastic chance for them to apply the skills they had been practising in a real game situation. There were some impressive batting performances, determined fielding efforts and, most importantly, plenty of smiles.

We are incredibly proud of how our pupils represented the school. They demonstrated teamwork, perseverance and a positive attitude throughout the day. Well done to all involved!



Wrotham Sport

Boccia

On Tuesday 27th January a handful of our year 7 and 8 pupils took part in a Boccia event run by Active Kent and Medway. They had the opportunity to meet members of the Paralympic Boccia team and participated in a number of games throughout the day.



They were all absolute superstars, and it was fantastic to see the concentration and focus whilst they were playing and the team work and support for the others when not.

Tennis

On Tuesday 3rd March some of our year 8 pupils took part in a Tennis Event run at Polo Farm Sports Centre in Canterbury. They took part in a carousel of different Tennis activities to help them build confidence and skills.



Throughout the day they worked on different skills such as forearm, serve and aim, and all were able to effectively hit a tennis ball accurately. Pupils showed fantastic teamwork and effort and were really engaged throughout the whole day.



Table Cricket

On Wednesday 4th February our Year 9s plus one year 8 pupil took part in a Table Cricket event run by Kent County Cricket in the grand surroundings of the Kent County Cricket Ground. They had the opportunity to participate in a number of Table Cricket games throughout the day competing against various other schools. As the day progressed, their bowling became more devious and their batting more ferocious as four teams were dispatched to the boundary and they only lost one game to the eventual winners Portal House. A huge well done to all involved.



Kings Hill Football Tournament

On Thursday 19th March some of our pupils took part in a Football Tournament run by Kings Hill Football Club. The pupils played in two teams representing Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 taking part in a number of games throughout the day, playing all the other teams in attendance; including each other.



All of the pupils did really well and showed good teamwork skills really supporting and encouraging each other, particularly when faced with challenging opponents.



Our Key Stage 4 team performed incredibly, winning all of their matches with the exception of one. They came second in the whole tournament and worked really well together.

Our Key Stage 3 team faced adversities with a lot of the other teams being bigger (literally) than them. This caused an extra challenge for them but they persevered and carried on showing true grit and determination to do well.

Further to this at the end of the award ceremony the Kings Hill staff nominated a Player of the Tournament and Sportsmanship awards, both of which were won by Grange Park pupils. With Harley from year 11 winning the Sportsmanship award for encouraging not only Grange Park pupils but also those from other teams and Hollie from Year 7 winning Player of the Tournament.



Well done Grange Park!

World Book Day



You didn't need to be Sherlock Holmes to solve the mystery of why World Book Day 2026 was one of the best yet at Grange Park.

Staff and pupils alike arrived in vibrant costumes, including some ambitious, homemade creations that demonstrated their passion for particular books and characters. Then, Key Stage 2 and 3 pupils were treated to an interactive mystery in which they became Sherlock's assistants working together to discover which staff member pushed Mrs Rodreigo into the cupboard. Sifting through clues, evidence and solving puzzles, teamwork was essential to uncovering the culprit.



Alongside the detective fun, the pupils were all taken to Waterstones in Bluewater to spend their World Book Tokens on this year's free books, or choose a new literary adventure of their own. Our pupils were praised by staff in the shop and the public alike for their polite behaviour and enthusiastic attitude to reading.

The Big Reveal

For some, January brings the doldrums and the dreary, dreaded part of winter. No more tinsel, no more twinkly lights, no more festive frivolities. But not for Year 7! They were instead invited to attend the Meeting Chamber of the Galactic Supreme Council at Galaxy Central Space Station (aka Woodville Theatre, Gravesend) where alongside several other KsENT schools, they were to contribute to a cosmic leap of the imagination through the power of song, dance, music and theatre.



Their specific mission: to create, design and build 'The Nemesis'; a visually terrifying and thrilling monstrosity from a long time ago, from a galaxy far, far away. Combining the most brilliant ideas from the children's designs and working as a team, the children brought their creation to life throughout the term. Working alongside the artist Nova Marshall from The Big Reveal, they explored various different materials from textiles to balsa wood to expanding foam and overcame the technical difficulties of how to secure the moving parts and how to attach the beast to its moving frame.

In the end, the magnificent two-headed, multi-winged beast complete with moving eyes, flashing lights and a live-meter, made a dramatic entrance as the finale to the performance, accompanied by the Oak Class choir. For some reason, the nemesis took particular pleasure in detaching its head from its body and attacking Miss Atwell and Mr Cooper in the audience!

To perform in a theatre, in front of an orchestra, other schools and a live audience was a fantastic experience for all our Year 7 children and one they fully embraced. They showed huge amounts of resilience and ingenuity to work together as a team to overcome problems they encountered in the design stage and coped admirably with the inevitable waiting around and repetition during the rehearsals. Huge thanks to all the staff involved but particularly to Mrs Batchelor and Miss McHardy for the extra hours they put in and to Hannah Stevens from Ifield for co-ordinating the whole event.

And of course to the creators of The Nemesis.



SaLT

Our therapy team work across all sites, and provide a huge amount of support for the pupils.



Mrs Mellor
SaLT Lead



Mrs Townsend
Speech &
Language
Therapist



Mrs Lettington
Speech &
Language
Therapist



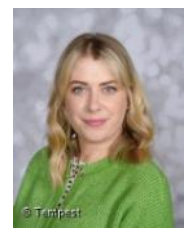
Mrs Macintyre
Occupational
Therapist



Mr Lewis
Occupational
Therapist



Mrs Doran
Therapy Assistant



Mrs Looney
Therapy Assistant

School council

Our school council have been busy again this term gathering feedback from their peers and discussing this in a mature and reasoned way within our school council meetings.



Pupils were keen to share ideas around how to make our school more eco-friendly, such as composting or giving food scraps from Food Tech to the animals. We talked about some environmental changes which could help to make pupils more comfortable, such as redistributing equipment and changing the layout of the tables in the dining hall. This will be trialled over the next few weeks and feedback will be sought from the school council as to the best option.

The pupils shared lots of ideas for potential merit award trips, which then went to a pupil vote for the trips to be offered next term. Many reps were keen for an additional award to be added above Gold, as pupils have worked fantastically hard and several have already exceeded the merits needed for a gold award this academic year, which has also been recognised by the Senior Leadership Team.

The school council will help to identify the requirements for this new award. We also discussed different sporting events, which our Sports Captain is looking into for the summer term and as always, the school council had a varied range of lunch club suggestions, which will be added to the rota for the summer term.

Chris Bonnelo visit for World Book Day



This World Book Day we were lucky enough to welcome Chris Bonnelo, an autistic advocate, speaker, author and consultant, back for his second visit to Grange Park.

In the morning, he spoke to all our Year 5/6 and 7 classes about his 'top 5 tips for becoming your best autistic self' and his novel series, 'The Underdogs', which some of our Stansted pupils have already read and enjoyed.

Pupils were fully engaged and posed a number of thought-provoking questions to Chris, who then took time to speak one-to-one with pupils after the talk about shared interests and to sign books.

In the afternoon, we were thrilled to be able to offer an opportunity for our parents/carers to meet with Chris to hear his experiences of developing a positive autistic identity.

After the visit, Chris took to his social media to share how impressed he was with the school and all of the pupils he had met, and to express his gratitude of being able to speak to a room full of parents/carers who he 'never felt the need to explain any of [his] quirks or mannerisms - they just got it'.

I am sure we will welcome Chris back again in future. If you have any suggestions for future speakers, please email familyvoice@grangepark.kent.sch.uk.

Outreach

This term we have been busy delivering training to families and education professionals from across Kent. We have also welcomed several practitioners from other educational settings to share our good practice, especially in relation to a low-arousal environment, interoception and SCERTS.

Course delivered included:

- Autism and girls - sessions for families and educational professionals
- What does autism mean for my child?
- Professionals mornings

Over 80% of participants rated our training as 'outstanding'. Highlights of the sessions identified by participants included:

Time to reflect

Engaging and passionate speakers

Workshop style and small encouraging group experience, sharing of knowledge

Really lovely atmosphere with just the right balance of formality/ informality.

Really helped everyone to feel comfortable and engage in valuable discussion.

Great to hear other families views and experiences

Understanding the reality of an autistic mind

Insight from pupils themselves on their experiences at Grange Park

Details of our upcoming courses can be found on our Eventbrite page:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/grange-park-school-40507409803>

Animal Care

At the farm this term, we have started on the maintenance, from making a new muck heap to fixing gates.

The pupils work hard around the farm and learn many new skills. They do many of the tasks independently and have made a really positive impact on the farm surroundings.

There is always time to hand feed the animals and all of the pupils benefit from time in with the pigs, donkeys and even brave the alpacas. It's been a cold wet term, but that does not stop their hard work.



Business Studies



BANK OF ENGLAND

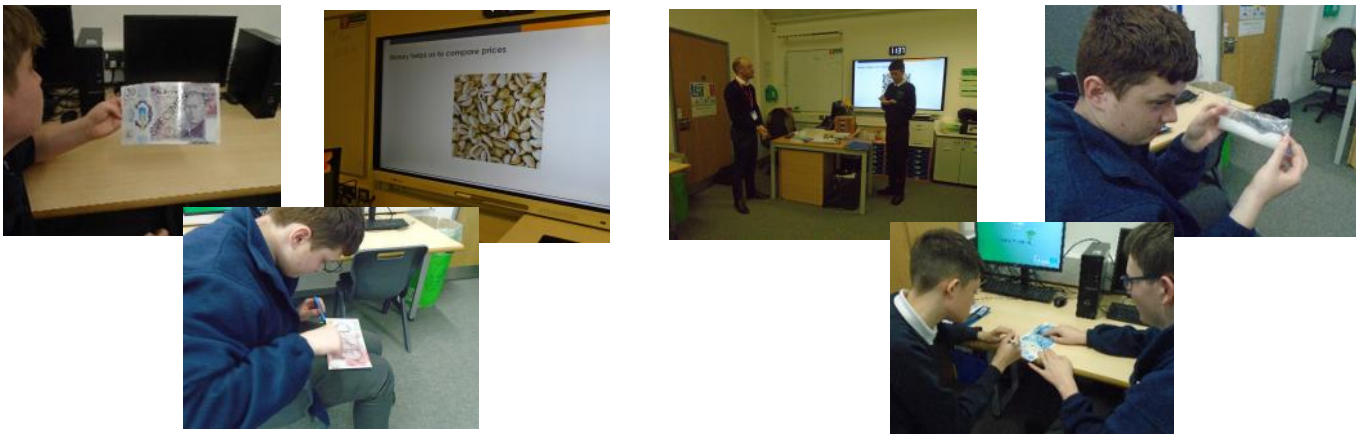
On Monday 23rd of March, Year 10 BTEC Business Studies pupils welcomed Chris from the Bank of England.

Chris spent time with the pupils delivering an interactive workshop based around 'What does the Bank do?'.

As well as this, Chris talked about his career and how he came to work at the bank, and how his career has developed. This helped to support our recent Apprenticeships/Careers week.

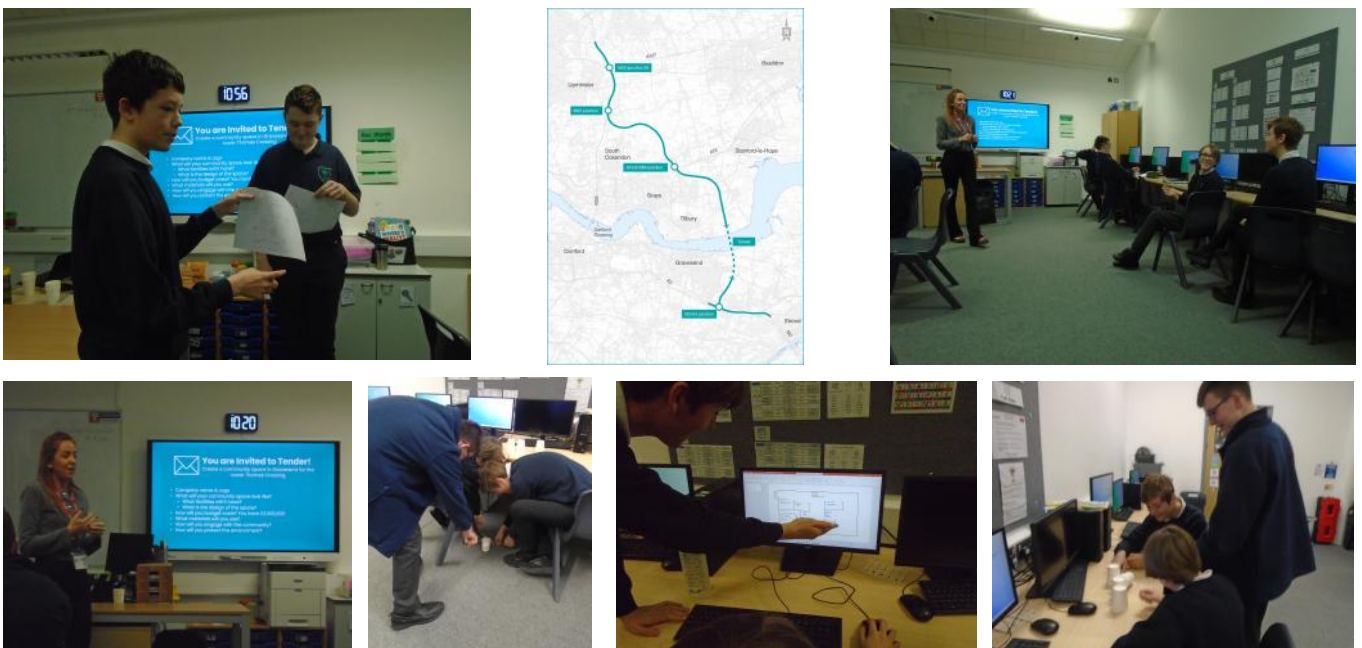
Pupils had the opportunity to talk about how currencies started, how the Bank of England supports the Economy and other banks within the Country.

The visit ended with a discussion on how the Bank of England stores gold and pupils got to handle a replica gold bar, and look at trading, with salt as an example of a commodity.



Year 10 Business Studies Students welcomed a visitor from Lower Thames Crossing to talk about what jobs exists within the projects, what the project is all about, why it is needed and the various Companies which are involved in the project.

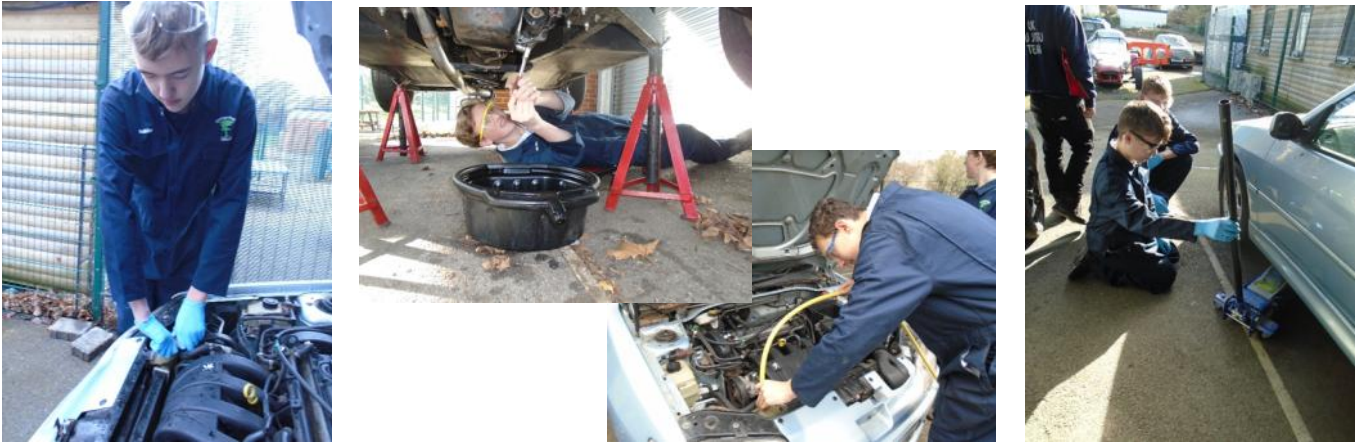
Students had the opportunity to complete a team building exercise, ask questions and work as a team to deliver a presentation about a community initiative which could be created within the local community – similar to what is already being planned within the Lower Thames project.



Motor Mechanics

Year 10

This term, the pupils have been learning about cooling systems, the correct use of a jack, and lubrication. They have also been renewing and refitting tyres on a kit car.



Year 11

This is the second year of their course, and Year 11 are finishing off coursework and their practical assessments. They have also been learning how to put on/take off a tyre from a wheel with machinery in the workshop. They have been working on engine components and taking it apart bit by bit.



Life Skills

It is important for our pupils to learn new skills, and the Mother's Day afternoon tea was a fantastic opportunity to learn how to set up for an event.

The year 8 and 9 Life Skills pupils helped make up the boxes for the Mother's Day tea and they also went to the local garden centre to buy the Mother's Day flowers for the tables.



Spotlight on Careers

Alumni Event

We were delighted to host our first Alumni event this academic year. It was fantastic to hear from eight wonderful ex-pupils about what they have been doing since leaving Grange Park. Some of the ex-pupils who volunteered to come and talk to the pupils had left



the school over 10 years ago! We got to hear about the wide range of careers that pupils have moved into

from studying Child Nursing at university, becoming a qualified Personal Trainer, completing an apprenticeship with Transport for London and working at South-Eastern to becoming a mechanic, IT Technician and working in the voluntary sector. Staff were also particularly taken aback by how many of the young people were now living independently and were even able to drive!!



Apprenticeship Fair

We were pleased to be able to take our Year 9 pupils to the Apprenticeship Fair at Mote Park. This is an event organised by local MPs



from across Kent is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to visit a careers fair and meet with a range of employers across a wide variety of job sectors. Whilst the pupils mostly enjoyed collecting the free pens, sweets and even



bags, they also gained valuable insights into possible careers options and developed their confidence in communicating with new people. It was a delight to see how they worked together and encouraged one another to approach

the various stands. Over the last few years we have come to recognise what an important stepping stone this is to attending other events as they get closer to making decisions about their next steps. Well done Year 9!

Wrotham Careers Fair

Through our collaboration with our neighbouring secondary school, we



were pleased to have the opportunity to visit the Wrotham Careers Fair. We were fortunate enough to be able to have our own dedicated session to attend the event and meet with a range of employers, further education and higher education providers. We were particularly pleased



to see more pupils having the confidence to visit the university stands following their first visit to a university earlier in the year. Again, there was some lovely collaboration between peers as they encouraged one another to approach the stands together.

Spotlight on Careers

Careers 360 event

In another fantastic collaboration, we visited Rowhill school along with pupils from Milestone Academy to take part in a Careers 360 event. The event allowed the pupils to work in small groups and interview a range of employers from across a variety of job sectors about their jobs, skills and experiences. The pupils represented the school brilliantly and gained valuable insights into the career journeys of the individuals from companies including Royal Mail, Community Bank and Amey among others.



University of Kent – STATS Gone Wild!

Some of our pupils in Year 10 and 11 had the privilege of visiting the University of Kent for a STATS GONE WILD day.



They had the opportunity to visit a lecture theatre and meet with a number of lecturers, researchers and students studying in a range of field within Science and Maths including students who shared their own experience of neurodivergence. This helped to raise the aspirations of our pupils by making the believe that going to university is a realistic possibility.

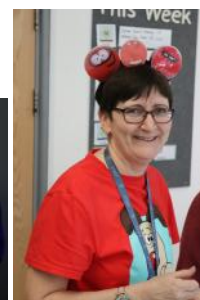
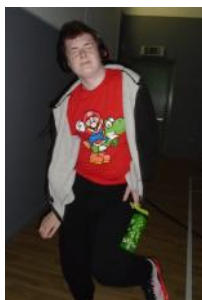


They then spent time learning in three seminar rooms about different statistical theories used to estimate the number of animals in a range of environments in the wild. They worked well together to investigate using the theories they learned around penguins, birds and lizards. The pupils showed great resilience in coping with this busy environment and many found the event inspiring to think that one day they too could be studying at university.



Red Nose Day

Comic relief was a great success again this year. Pupils got to wear their own clothes to school, and many chose to enjoy a silent disco in the school hall. We also ran our ever successful Krispy Kreme doughnut sale and overall, we raised an incredible £1021, which is our highest fundraising total to date, so a huge well done to everyone who got involved. We have created a short staff video celebrating Red Nose Day which you can view [here](#).



NAS Beacons Status Celebration

At a special ceremony attended by top brass from Kent County Council, students, staff and governors from Grange Park School celebrated earning a prestigious Beacon Award from the National Autistic Trust.

Described by the NAS as a “shining example of excellence in the field of autism support”, Grange Park School joins only 11 other schools nationally to be recognised with Beacon status. The award reflects the school’s exceptional support for autistic pupils, their families and the wider community.

During the event, Beverley Fordham (Cabinet member for Education & Skills) and Nick Abraham (Assistant Director of Education) unveiled a plaque reflecting the many ways Grange Park School helps autistic children.

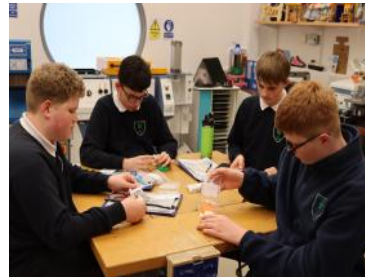
Beverley Fordham said: “This Beacon Award is an exceptional achievement and one that Grange Park should be immensely proud of. It celebrates a school community that places its pupils and families at the heart of everything it does.”



Options Week

Options week is a great opportunity for our Year 9 pupils to get a taster of the courses that we offer for Key Stage 4.

We offer a huge variety of subjects ranging from vocational practical courses like Mechanics and Floristry, to GCSE courses including History and Geography. These sessions are an opportunity for pupils to try new subjects and make informed choices for their options for Year 10 and 11.



Taster Subjects Available for Key Stage 4

- ◆ Animal Care
- ◆ Art
- ◆ Business
- ◆ Construction
- ◆ Cookery
- ◆ DT
- ◆ Floristry
- ◆ Geography
- ◆ History
- ◆ ICT
- ◆ Mechanics
- ◆ Media
- ◆ Photography
- ◆ RE
- ◆ Sport

Art

KS3 Art

In term 3 Years 7, 8 and 9 worked collaboratively to create their own islands and maps, working on the theme 'This Is My Place' as part of a school-wide wellbeing initiative. They used a range of mixed media to create their own individual islands that reflected something about their identity. Working together they linked up their islands creating giant maps.



In term 4, Year 7 and 8 started a new project called "Investigating Patterns" where they have been exploring the impact and influence of non western art on the global artworld. They have been looking at Asian and Islamic patterns in design and architecture.

They are now focusing on the British Artist William Morris and the Arts and Crafts Movement, and will be designing their own patterns and motifs to decorate a 'skateboard/body board' in term 5.

KS4 Art

Year 10 are continuing to explore the theme of Portraiture and Identity, and had fun creating distorted collage portraits inspired by the artist Waldemar Stremplar.



Year 11 have been working on their exam projects.



Cookery

Key Stage 3

Years 7, 8 and 9 have been working hard in cookery. They have been learning about hygiene and safety for preparing and cooking food, and developing lots of new skills to produce a variety of superb dishes such as pizza toast, flapjacks, cous-cous, tomato soup, curries, cakes, focaccia, a stir fry and risotto!



Key Stage 4

Year 10 have been continuing their Home Cooking Skills course and have been producing some excellent homestyle dishes.



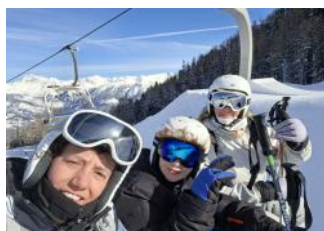
Ski Trip - Italy

In February, 16 pupils and 4 members of staff made their way across Europe to Italy for a week in the snow skiing.

A full-packed week saw some incredible improvements for those who had been skiing before and for those who had never skied they really found their feet (or skis!) on the slopes.

Days were spent on the piste and there was lots of evening entertainment including bowling, ice skating and pizza nights.

Overall, it was an incredible experience, even if the pupils were exhausted by the time the coach got back to Wrotham - roll on 2027!



"I've been to the ski trip in Pila (in Italy) twice now and I am very grateful that I have been able to go twice in two years. What I enjoyed my first time going the most was getting to know the people who went on the trip better, regardless if they are year groups above or below me. The second time however, with the experience I had already gained, I improved much more, even being able to ski from the top of the mountain, down to the bottom.

One of the things people don't talk about much, are the views, when you are at the peak of the mountain, you can see all of Aosta Valley. You could see all of the mountains like Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn (for those who aren't aware, it's the same mountain that's on a Toblerone). On the chair lifts and gondolas, with light snow, brushing across your face and the sun shining with a warm orange glow. It truly is something you can only understand when you see it in person."



Whole School Trip to Hercules

Pupils and staff alike had a fantastic trip to London's Theatre Royal, Drury Lane to see the new Disney musical Hercules.

We travelled to London on the train and everyone was incredibly excited to see the show, which turned out to be an extravaganza!

As always, pupils were impeccably behaved and did a wonderful job of representing the school. We can't wait to see what Miss Underhill picks for next year!



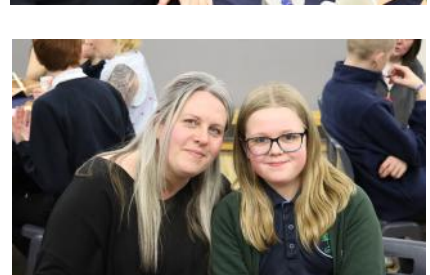
Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

We were delighted to welcome so many mums, aunties and grandmothers to celebrate Mother's Day with us this year.

Our Key Stage 5 pupils did an excellent job in organising the event, and serving the teas and coffees to our guests.

Our Year 8 Life Skills pupils made up the afternoon tea boxes and it was a fantastic effort by all of the children.

Happy Mother's Day!





Key Stage 5

Work Experience

Key Stage 5 students have continued their work experience placements with huge success.

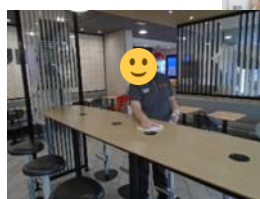
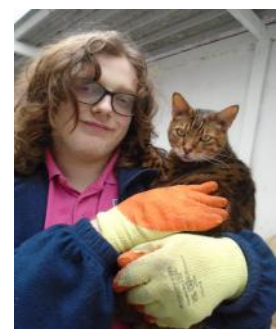
Our current placements are:

- ◆ Holiday Inn
- ◆ McDonalds
- ◆ Heart of Kent Hospice
- ◆ SCAR animal rescue
- ◆ Dog groomers
- ◆ Trottiscliffe community Farm
- ◆ TA placement within Stansted site
- ◆ School Kitchen at Wrotham
- ◆ Tesco

These opportunities offer our KS5 students the opportunity to gain practical **experience** in a supported work environment, along with:

- Developing skills and knowledge in different job roles.
- Learning about an industry or sector.
- Working with new people
- Building confidence.
- Becoming a more competitive candidate for future employment/apprenticeships.
- Trying (experiencing something new)

One of the favourite placements is the Second Chance Animal Rescue centre. The children are a great help at the rescue and help prepare food to feed 150 pigs and 10 goats. They also sort out donations that constantly come in. Students get the opportunity to have time with the rescue animals and help to be ready to go to their forever homes.



College Partnership

Students at our College site study a range of subjects, and are eager to share their projects and progress.

Jericho - Progression Curriculum

'Today we went up to the art department on the 3rd floor.

Firstly we printed out pictures that we wanted to use and I chose one piece as my theme.



I started by tracing the printed image on tracing paper followed by turning the image around and going over with a pressed pencil onto a stencil paper.

Next we used a scalpel to cut out my one piece image. There's an allocated area for spraying. I shook the can of paint and sprayed multiple colours onto the images.

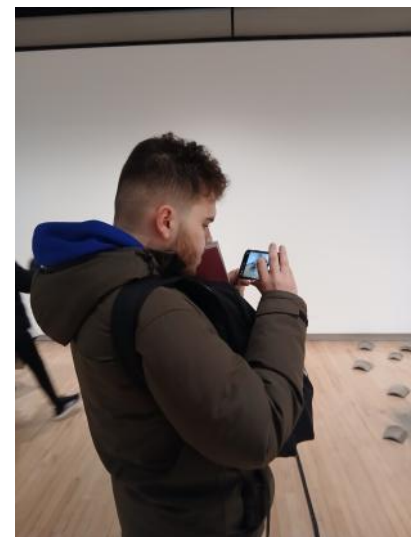
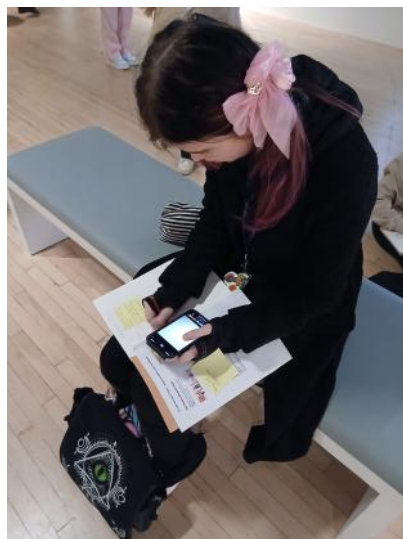
I let it dry and it's done. I thoroughly enjoyed this activity.'

Art

Our Level 2 Art students, Ben, Harry and Grace went on a trip to the Hayward Gallery and Tate Modern in London where they got to observe some amazing artworks and exhibitions.

During the visits, they had to learn and research all about the art pieces and the talented artists who created them. All the masterpieces that they investigated had given them inspiration for their final major project assignments, and we can't wait to see what they will create for their final artwork.

Ben, Harry and Grace had really enjoyed their day out at the Southbank and being immersed by the wonderful world of art!



College Partnership

Some of the College students have had a very busy few terms, both inside and outside of College.

Adam and Harrison who left Wrotham in Year 11 last year are enjoying their Level 3 IT course and are happy to share their knowledge.

'What is the server rack?

It is a rack so like a crate of what all of the networking equipment goes into. Things like a server that holds all the data, switches which works like an extension lead for internet and other networking equipment. It is on wheels so it is movable, and is required to be in a cool room as the networking equipment doesn't get too hot and overheat or get damaged.

What I have done to help with setting up the server rack, is we installed the switch with our tutor watching over us, making sure we were doing everything correctly and the other network gear like UPS (uninterrupted power supply), server (big computer), NAS (network attached storage), PDU (power distribution unit).' Harrison



'In our course, we had the opportunity to setup our server rack which contains network hardware to allow us to connect to the internet as well as our own server to share data.

We had to fit all of the hardware ourselves by putting the brackets on the switches and NAS and screwing it into place in the rack. We had to work in a team to fit the uninterrupted power supply (UPS) as it is very large and heavy as it contains a large battery in case the mains power goes out which allows the servers to shutdown safely preventing data loss. This allows us to learn about how servers work, how they are setup and how networks allow lots of devices to connect to the internet.' Adam

Both Harrison and Adam are working to a high standard and their tutors are really pleased with their progress. Harrison has also secured work experience at Kings School in Rochester for his IT placement, and Adam will be starting his placement at Medway Hospital in September

Outside of College, Harrison has passed his CBT test, and now travels to and from College independently on his motorbike. Adam has recently passed his driving test and is fortunate to have his own car.

Under the Hood

Chloe and Callum have worked hard this term they have completed all their assignments.

Callum has enjoyed working on all different cars, mending indicators, door trims, washing, and cleaning cars. The last task of the term was taking apart an engine before the car was scrapped.

Chloe has been working with peers on all parts of an engine, gaining new skills for her future in the industry.

Well, done to both of you. You should be very proud of yourselves.



Pupil Spotlight

We really enjoy hearing about all of the wonderful things that our pupils get up to outside of school, and the incredible achievements that they have accomplished.

Lily in Year 8 attends Guides every week, and she has been working really hard towards entries for the District handicraft competition, which had a theme of 'beach and sea animals'.



Lily entered 4 categories, and came 1st with her turtle picture, 3rd with her incredible decorated cake with edible decorations and she was awarded a high commendation for her canvas painting. Lily also came 1st in the live crafting event which was to paint a beach theme in 3 minutes.

Lily started her Guiding journey in Rainbows and has moved through up to Guides. When asked what she liked most about Guides, Lily said that she has lots of friends who understand that she has autism, but don't treat her any differently. If she doesn't understand something, then they always take the time to explain it again if she needs it.

Lily really enjoys all of the games and arts and crafts that they get to do. When asked what advice she would give others who were perhaps a bit worried about trying something new, Lily said that they should just try and go for it. If they try it and like it, then they will have a new hobby, and they shouldn't let anything stop them!

A huge well done to Lily, we are incredible proud of all your achievements.

If your child has an interest outside of school that they would like to share with us, then please contact caroline.kirkpatrick@grangepark.kent.sch.uk and they may be included in the next newsletter.



Best Practice with Teaching Assistant Award

We are delighted to announce that Grange Park School was awarded the Best Practice with Teaching Assistant Award at the end of February.

This recognition celebrates the outstanding contribution of our teaching assistants and the strong collaborative approach between staff that helps our pupils thrive every day.

Our dedicated team of teaching assistants play a vital role in supporting learning, nurturing confidence, and ensuring every student receives the care and guidance they need to succeed. This award reflects the commitment, professionalism, and teamwork across our whole school community, and we are incredibly proud of the difference our staff make to the lives of our pupils.



Mrs Bignall

Mrs Bignall is retiring at the end of this term after a long career in education.

We are so grateful for everything you have brought to Grange Park School. From the moment you joined us as a Learning Mentor, your passion for textiles shone through, transforming it into a subject our pupils absolutely loved.

You created a space where they could explore, express themselves, and feel truly understood. Your dedication, creativity, and unwavering advocacy for both your subject and your pupils have made a lasting impact on our school community. Thank you for believing in our children, championing their talents, and helping them discover new ways to thrive.



Grange Park Florist

Pupils are continuing to benefit from the orders that we receive as it has enabled them to work more with fresh flowers and they have learnt to handle them with great care. Pupils can now make beautifully wrapped bouquets and can make a professional bow with confidence.

All feedback has been very positive.

We are not looking at making any profits. The aim is for the children to learn through real life experiences of working in a Florist and taking orders. The money charged will be cost-price only and will be used to buy your fresh flowers or to replenish our stock.



We would welcome any donations of containers for example, baskets, vases and silk flowers.

Flowers are made up on Tuesdays and Thursdays by the pupils in their Floristry lessons.

Flowers need to be either collected from School or taken home with your child, (we cannot do deliveries).

Due to exam season, we will not be taking any more floristry orders at the present time.

Thank you for all of the orders that we have received, and for your support.

We look forward to making up fresh flower orders again in the next academic year, as we have stopped taking orders whilst the pupils sit the Summer exams.



Fresh Flower Bouquets

Small- £15
Medium £20
Large - £25

Basket Arrangements - £20
Funeral/Specialist arrangements

Any silk flower arrangements or specialist arrangements - Please request a call back from Mrs Brooks



Summer Exams

The summer GCSE exams start in May and run through until Monday 15th June 2026.

Year 6 SATs run from **Monday 11th - Thursday 14th May 2026**.

Thursday 7th May 2026 (Afternoon) - GCSE German (Listening & Reading)

Monday 11th May 2026 (Morning) - GCSE English Literature (Paper 1)

Tuesday 12th May 2026 (Afternoon) - GCSE Biology (Paper 1)

Wednesday 13th May 2026 (Morning) - GCSE Geography (Paper 1)

Thursday 14th May 2026 (Morning) - GCSE Maths (Paper 1)

Thursday 14th May 2026 (Afternoon) - GCSE German (Writing)

Friday 15th May 2026 (Morning) - GCSE History (Paper 1)

Tuesday 19th May 2026 (Morning) - GCSE English Literature (Paper 2)

Wednesday 20th May 2026 (Morning) - GCSE French (Listening & Reading)

Thursday 21st May 2026 (Morning) - GCSE English Language (Paper 1)

Tuesday 2nd June 2026 (Morning) - GCSE Physics (Paper 1)

Tuesday 2nd June 2026 (Afternoon) - GCSE Statistics (Paper 1)

Wednesday 3rd June 2026 (Morning) - GCSE Maths (Paper 2)

Wednesday 3rd June 2026 (Afternoon) - GCSE Geography (Paper 2)

Thursday 4th June 2026 (Morning) - GCSE History (Paper 2)

Thursday 4th June 2026 (Afternoon) - GCSE French (Writing)

Friday 5th June 2026 (Morning) - GCSE English Language (Paper 2)

Monday 8th June 2026 (Morning) - GCSE Biology (Paper 2)

Tuesday 9th June 2026 (Afternoon) - GCSE History (Paper 3)

Wednesday 10th June 2026 (Morning) - GCSE Maths (Paper 3)

Thursday 11th June 2026 (Morning) - GCSE Geography (Paper 3)

Friday 12th June 2026 (Afternoon) - GCSE Statistics (Paper 2)

Monday 15th June 2026 (Morning) - GCSE Physics (Paper 2)



Arbor - A Guide for Parents and Carers

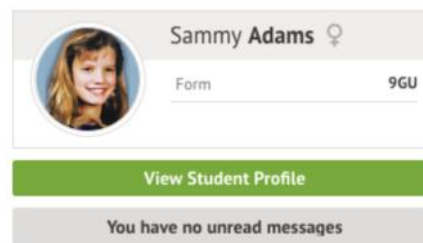
At Grange Park, we use Arbor as our parent portal, here are a few hints and tips to get the most out of the Arbor App.

Your Homepage Dashboard

The dashboard is the first screen that you will see. This gives a quick glance of the student's daily timetable, behaviour points, meals, notices, current attendance and progress.

You can see your in-app messages by clicking this button under your child's photo.

You can return to this page at any time by clicking on the school's logo or choosing Dashboard from any menu. On the homepage you'll also see sections for:



- **Statistics** - This shows information about the student's attendance, behaviour and progress statistics for the current term.
- **Guardian consultations** - The Guardian Consultations section allows guardians to book time for Parents Evening meetings by selecting one of the available slots as per the School's setup.
- **Accounts** - The Accounts section loads the student's current Meals and other top-up account balances.
- **Trips** - Sign your child up for trips.
- **Clubs** - Sign up to revision sessions during the exam periods.
- **School Shop** - Make purchases for items.

Available data on your child

If your child's school has granted access, you will be able to click on different parts of the home page to view more data on your child.

For example, clicking the attendance percentage will bring up the attendance page which breaks down the attendance figures into present, late, or absent.



Once you've clicked on Attendance or another item, you will see a menu appear like so in the left-hand side of the page you are now on:

Statistics for Academic Year 2018/2019	
Possible sessions	404
Present	398 sessions (98.51%)
Late	12 sessions (3.02%)
Authorised absent	6 sessions (1.49%)
Unauthorised absent	0 sessions (0.00%)

Recent Attendance (12 Jun 2019 - 19 Jun 2019)	
Present	9 sessions (100.00%)
Late	0 sessions (0.00%)
Authorised absent	0 sessions (0.00%)
Unauthorised absent	0 sessions (0.00%)

Access your child's profile by clicking the **View Student Profile** button on your homepage.

This allows you to see basic information about your child, and highlights any unread notices or actions needing to be completed. You will be able to amend details such as your contact details, medical information, consents, and so on.

We ask that all parental consents are up to date, so please do check if you have any outstanding.

Unicef Right of the Week

As you know, we are a Gold Rights Respecting School, and weekly we pick an Article to focus on which is shown in assembly, but also spoken about in form time on a Monday afternoon. These Articles are so valuable for the pupils to know and learn about to ensure they are aware of their rights and how these can be met.

We also discuss with the pupils what is happening in the news at the moment, and how children's rights are linked, and how they may not be being met.

The Articles we have covered this term are:

Article 2: All children have these rights

Article 3: Adults must do what's best for me

Article 6: I should be supported to live and grow

Article 12: I have the right to be listened to and taken seriously

Article 15: I have the right to meet with friends and to join groups

Article 17: I have the right to get information in lots of ways, so long as it is safe

Article 23: If I have a disability, I have the right to special care and education

Article 29: I have the right to an education

Article 31: I have a right to relax and play



A Rights are for ALL children. UNIVERSAL	B Rights are there at BIRTH. INHERENT	C Rights CANNOT be taken away. INALIENABLE	D Rights DO NOT have to be earned. UNCONDITIONAL	E All rights are EQUALLY important. INDIVISIBLE
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If you are interested in what the children's rights are they are all on our school website under: About Us, Awards and Accreditations/UNICEF- Gold Rights Respecting School.